

REMARKS

Claims 15 and 22 have been amended to incorporate therein the recitation of claim 25, and claim 27 has been amended to incorporate therein the recitation of claim 30. Claims 25 and 30 have been canceled.

Claims 15, 22, 27 and 33 have been amended to recite that the first packing is a first metallic packing. Claims 24 and 29 have been amended to conform with the subject claim amendment.

Claim 33 has been rewritten as a method claim.

Claims 15-25, 26-29, 31-33 were rejected; and claims 25, 30 and 32 were objected to as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

Claim 33 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to a sensor but additionally including method steps. The Examiner requested amendment of claim 33 so as to be directed to a single statutory class only.

In response, claim 33 has been rewritten as a method claim, and withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-17, 21, 22, 26, 27 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,668,477 to Nishio et al.

Claims 18, 19, 23, 24, 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishio et al in view of U.S. Patent 4,401,967 to Miwa et al.

The independent claims are claims 15, 22, 27, 32 and 33. Claims 32 and 33 are method claims.

Claims 25, 30 and 32 were indicated as being allowable. Claim 33 was not rejected over prior art.

The feature that the Examiner considers to be of patentable significance is that the first packing is formed by axially pressing and plastically deforming a wire packing, which has been inserted into the clearance between the proximal end surface of the projection and the inner circumferential surface of the metallic shell, such that the first packing assumes a wedge-like cross-section.

In response, claims 15 and 22 have been amended to incorporate therein the recitation of claim 25, and claim 27 has been amended to incorporate therein the recitation of claim 30 to thereby obviate the foregoing rejections. Claims 32 and 33 already include the subject limitation.

Withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of claims 15-24, 26-29 and 31-33 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/564,354

Attorney Docket No.: Q91857

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Abraham J. Rosner
Registration No. 33,276

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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